

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 851

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Van D. Turner, Jr., Third Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Van D. Turner, Jr., who is being honored at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service he has provided to the people of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, the Third Annual Living Legend Awards ceremony, which honors Harriet Tubman and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on March 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Van Turner represents District 12 on the Shelby County Board of Commissioners and serves as chair of the Hospitals & Health Committee and the Equal Opportunity Minority/Woman Business Enterprise and Locally-Owned Small Business Committee; his colleagues on the Board unanimously voted for him to serve as chairman for the 2018-2019 term; and

WHEREAS, he is a partner in the law firm of Bruce Turner, PLLC, concentrating on business litigation, business transactions, government relations, municipal law, and estate planning; he previously was counsel at Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Cannada & Stevens, PLLC, Associate General Counsel for the Memphis City Schools Board of Education, and judicial law clerk for the Honorable Samuel Hardy Mays, Jr., federal judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner has also served as adjunct professor at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, LeMoyne-Owen College, and Southwest Tennessee Community College; and

WHEREAS, licensed to practice law in Tennessee and Mississippi, Van Turner has served on the board of directors of a number of legal professional organizations, including the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, and the Mississippi Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, wholly devoted to serving his community, Mr. Turner is active with the Economic Club of Memphis, Leadership Academy, Leadership Memphis, and the Leo Bearman, Sr., American Inns of Court; he served as chair of the Shelby County Democratic Party and on the board of directors of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Van Turner received his Bachelor of Arts degree *magna cum laude* from Morehouse College, where he was Phi Beta Kappa; he served as a White House intern in the Office of Presidential Personnel during the Clinton administration and later as an assistant teacher of English with the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program in Yamanashi, Japan, before attending the University of Tennessee College of Law, where he earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2002; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Turner is grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife, Tamara Turner, and their three children, Malik, Masai, and Malia; and

WHEREAS, Van Turner is an exemplary individual; his commitment to excellence and community service is representative of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Van D. Turner, Jr., upon his recognition at the Third

Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud his outstanding community leadership, and extend our best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.